

# INTERVIEW

## WITH THE ANTITERRORIST

By Robert Eringer

**He's dropped rats infected with bubonic plague on North Vietnam, recruited "security personnel" for hot spots all over the world, and runs the top anti-terror school in the country. Mitch WerBell may seem outlandish—because he is! And he may be just the man we need to stand up to Libya's Khadafy!**

*"If somebody wants a revolution they usually wind up talking to me."*

**T**hese are the words of 63-year-old Mitchell Livingston WerBell, one-time OSS officer,

international arms dealer, mercenary recruiter, and commander of Cobray International, an "Antiterrorist Training Center" he operates at his 66-acre estate (called "The Farm") in Powder Springs, Ga.

At five-foot-seven with little piercing eyes, WerBell is most aptly described as nasty. (How else can one describe a man who once headed an operation to bomb North Vietnam with live rats infected with bubonic plague?) Mitch WerBell spends his days gulping large shots of Chivas Regal, smoking fine cigars, and fondly reminiscing his days as a mercenary *extraordinaire*.

A fervent anticommunist, WerBell has conducted paramilitary operations—mostly for foreign dictators—in Cuba, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Haiti, the

Dominican Republic, The Bahamas, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos. Through the years he has become known as a sort of private CIA for hire.

Coca-Cola called in Mitch WerBell some years back after receiving kidnapping threats in Argentina. Although Coca-Cola now denies this, WerBell observes, "Coca-Cola hasn't had any kidnappings lately." Continues WerBell, "I'll tell you how we stopped it. We said, number one, anybody kidnapped, go ahead and kill them, because we're not going to ransom them, not for 10 cents. But we will go after you. We will kill you. We will kill your wife. We will kill your children, your cats and dogs, your pigs and your chickens."

WerBell's intensive 10-day antiterrorist training course is priced at about \$2,500. He runs two such courses per month, each attended by six or eight students. The course offers expert training in .38 and .45 caliber pistols, rifles and scopes, shotguns, unconventional weaponry, the martial arts and counter-terrorist procedures. In addition, there are

sessions in bomb search techniques, electronic countermeasures, convoy techniques, and evasive driving.

So far, over 300 students have gone through WerBell's school. It has become so popular that courses are often booked six months in advance.

**Q: You formed your school in 1979...**

**A:** It existed before, but it never was formalized until then. The purpose of it is to train law-enforcement people, private bodyguards, security personnel, etc. It's a very concentrated course in which we teach all of the countermeasures against political assassinations, terrorists—that sort of thing.

**Q: Couldn't it be said that a school for antiterrorists could also double as training ground for would-be terrorists?**

**A:** Well, how can you tell?

**Q: Precisely!**

**A:** We investigate everybody that comes here very thoroughly—right down to their socks. They have to furnish us with authentic documents testifying to their good reputation—no criminal activity, not being nuts or alcoholics, etc. Now, everything you do in a countermeasure, of course, teaches you how they're gonna do it, so you can counter them. You never know who's gonna go bad. But even the CIA has that same problem.

**Q: Have you ever rejected applicants to your school?**

**A:** Yes indeed. We have canned a couple. Tossed 'em out.

**Q: For what reasons?**

**A:** Bad attitudes. We felt that some of them were potential danger spots. I say "some"—we're only talking about two people.

**Q: You charge \$2,500 for your 10-day course, and that doesn't even include accommodations and most meals. How much of that do you make in profit?**

**A:** (Laughter) I can tell you, but you'd be horrified at how little it is.

**Q: What I'm really getting at is, is money the motivation for running the school?**

**A:** Well naturally, partially, but it really is not a big producer at all. We've got too many topnotch and high-priced instructors.

"We will go after you. We will kill you. We will kill your wife. We will kill your children, your cats and dogs, your pigs and your chickens."—Mitch WerBell, the Antiterrorist.



**Q: So what is your major motivation in running your school?**

**A:** Well, I guess there's really several things. One of them is, of course, I felt there is a tremendous need for it. Plus the fact that I can't stand just not doing anything.

**Q: Do you recruit mercenaries from graduates of your school?**

**A:** Well, in some cases, yes.

**Q: You can find employment for those who have successfully gone through your course?**

**A:** We don't claim to do that. We can recommend them in certain areas where we get inquiries.

**Q: Do you keep track of Cobray graduates?**

**A:** Oh yeah.

**Q: In what sense?**

**A:** We have a continuous ongoing record of what they're doing because they all check in with us, which is extraordinary, too.

**Q: Suppose they don't check in with you. Do you keep track of their activities?**

**A:** Yeah, So far none of them have turned bad.

**Q: That's reassuring—considering what they've been taught.**

**A:** Well, once again, even in the CIA you have people turn bad.

**Q: Do you report the activities of your graduates to any intelligence agencies in the**

**United States?**

**A:** Nope.

**Q: How about your students from foreign countries? When they return to their respective countries do you report their activities to their governments?**

**A:** Yep. The government sends them.

**Q: What governments send them?**

**A:** You know, there are certain things I really can't talk about. But frankly, we're expecting a number of Thai students over the next few months. Others come from Central and South American countries. Most of our students are Americans.

**Q: I understand that students who attend Cobray must sign a waiver relinquishing Cobray from responsibility in case of injury or death.**

**A:** Right.

**Q: Have there been any injuries or deaths?**

**A:** I think one guy got a couple of cracked ribs—through his own fault. He was a smart-ass and so our martial arts guy tamed him down a little bit.

**Q: Let's go back a bit. When did you first become involved in international intrigue?**

**A:** World War II—1942—when I first joined the OSS, the Office of Strategic Services.

**Q: What missions did you undertake as an OSS officer?**

**A:** China, Burma, and then I went into French Indochina, before the war was over when the

Japanese were occupying it. Our outfit brought Ho Chi Minh out of hiding. And, of course, Ho Chi Minh was a big buddy of the United States in those days. What spoiled that was our stupidity in going to the aid of the French.

**Q: Are there any particular missions you can talk about?**

**A:** Oh yeah. I went in on prisoner recovery, and I also took the surrender of General Sumita with 80,000 Japanese the day the atomic bomb was dropped. That was in San Che Province.

**Q: What did you do after the OSS was disbanded?**

**A:** We were in an outfit called SS Unit, which was the next phase of our clandestine operations (before the CIA)—which doesn't mean we played in the band.

**Q: What does it mean?**

**A:** Special Operations, which is the parachute-behind-the-lines unit. I made a number of jumps.

**Q: When the CIA was formed in 1947 did you become part of it like most other OSS and SS Unit veterans?**

**A:** I have never been CIA. I have worked very closely with them.

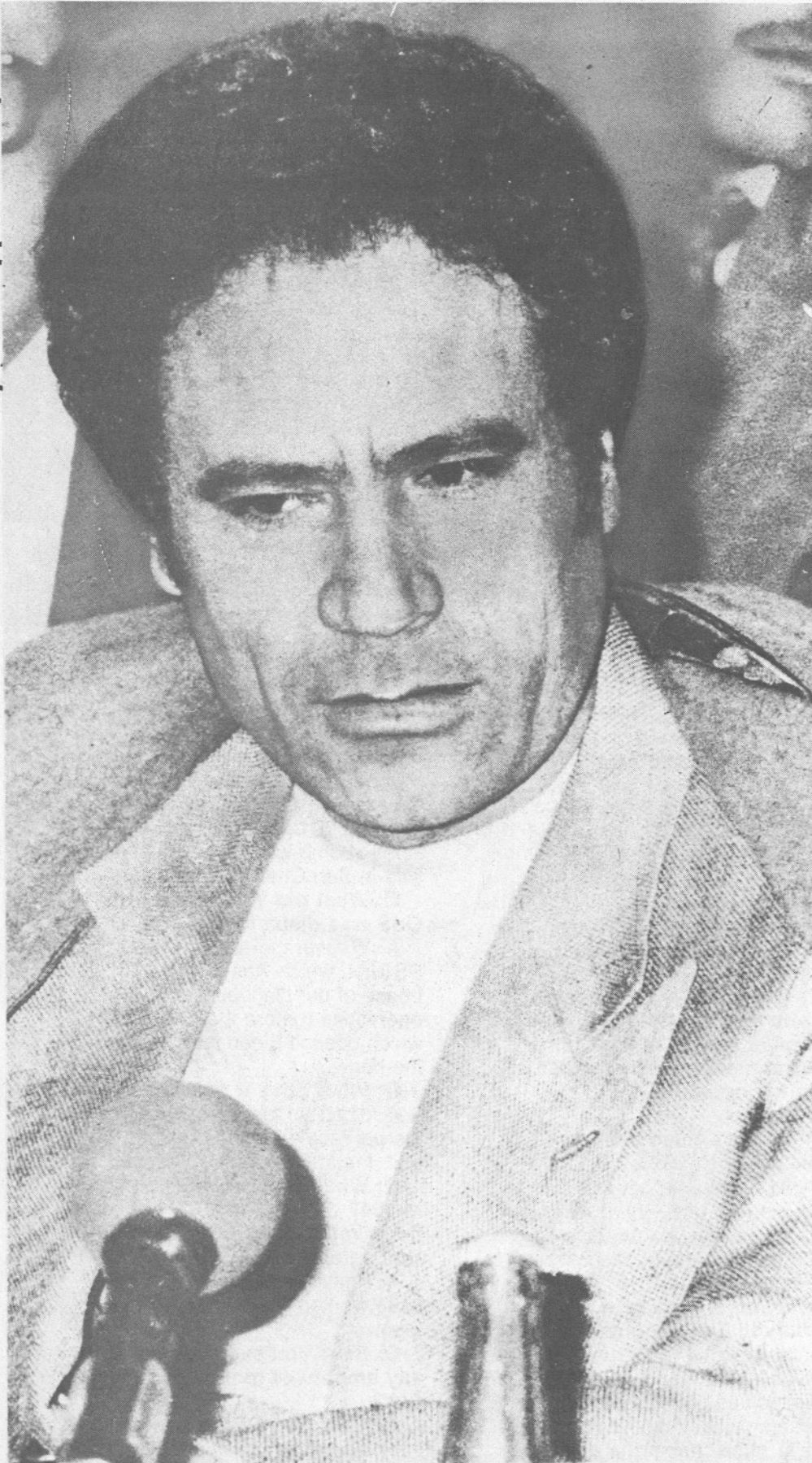
**Q: Have you ever been paid any amount of money by the CIA?**

**A:** (Laughter) Boy, that is the question which keeps popping up!

**Q: And what is your response?**

**A:** My answer is no.

**Q: You've never received any**



Libyan leader Moammar Khadafi represents the greatest threat of terrorism in the world today. WerBell, founder of Sionics, the Military Armaments Corporation, and Cobray International, represents our best defense against the likes of Khadafy.

money at all from the CIA?

**A:** Nope.

**Q:** Wait a minute. Jim Hougan, in his book, *Spooks*, says you "worked under contract to the CIA in the 1960s, organizing amphibious landings against Cuba from a base in the Dominican Republic."

**A:** I was with an entirely different facility.

**Q:** O.K. then, after you left the SS Unit what did you do?

**A:** Well, I became a civilian. At that time I was a captain in a parachute unit and I didn't like it. So I transferred into Military Intelligence and stayed in there in reserve and didn't do a damn thing. So, I quit and went into the advertising business. I was advertising director of Rich's department store, the biggest department store south of New York. That lasted for about a year, and then I got back into geopolitics.

**Q:** You missed the excitement of international intrigue?

**A:** Well let me tell you a little story. You see, a guy went to a house of pleasure. And he picked out his broad and took her upstairs—the \$100-a-whack type. And she had a beautiful accent. He said, "My goodness, where've you come from?" Well she was raised in Haverford-Philadelphia. Main-Line, you know, comes from a socially prominent family. He says, "Holy Christ. What's a cultured, charming woman like you doing in a whore house?" And she said, "Well I guess I was just lucky." You get it? I guess I was just lucky.

**Q:** How did you make this comeback of yours?

**A:** C'mon, stop the shit. What do you want me to do, pull down my pants and show you my palms?

**Q:** I just want you to tell me how you got back into the business of international intrigue?

**A:** Just like the babe said, "I guess I was just lucky." One of my major assignments, this was about 1957, was to keep Batista in business. Not that everybody was favorable towards Batista, but we knew at that point what Fidel was all about. Actually, Fidel never fought a battle. Fidel never

did a God-damned thing. The students did all the fighting. That son of a bitch never fought a battle; he never fired a round. However, my job at that time was to keep Batista in. Not because he was good, but because we knew he was a lot better than Fidel Castro.

**Q: What do you mean?**

**A:** *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, those no-good crap liberal bastards we have in this country. That's what went wrong.

**Q: What do you mean?**

**A:** The so-called liberal press who are communist bought and owned. *The New York Times*—what a bunch of crap those guys are. *The Washington Post*. They're traitors. Quote me on that.

**Q: At what point did you start your international arms company, Military Armaments Corporation?**

**A:** About 1967. It was originally called Sionics. We produced silencers.

**Q: Who did you make weapons for during those years?**

**A:** We made them for the United States. Do you also mean, who did we sell them to?

**Q: Right.**

**A:** The Philippines, Thailand, South Vietnam, the Israelis. The raid on Entebbe was all done with my weapons and silencers.

**Q: Did your company specialize in silencers?**

**A:** No, submachine guns.

**Q: Is Military Armaments Corporation still operational?**

**A:** I saw the handwriting on the wall there. They wanted to retire me 'cause I was such a prickly thorn. First, I was president, then I was Chairman of the Board, and you know what happens when you're Chairman of the Board at a young age. Next step is the boot. And I told 'em the only way to retire me is buy my stock. So I sold my stock and two years later they folded and went under.

**Q: Didn't you have another arms company?**

**A:** Yes. Defense Systems International, which is still operational.

**Q: Have you ever gotten into trouble with the U.S. Government because of your**

**international arms dealings?**

**A:** The Firearms, Alcohol, and Tobacco people are always bugging me. They're responsible for control of weapons being manufactured and transferred, and so forth. Their real control starts with automatic weapons, silencers, and it goes into destructive devices. All these are registered items. I've had some real battles with those bastards. I think they're all pinheads.

**Q: What sort of battles?**

**A:** Well, I've had some battles with them concerning their regulations—and they've come up with the most God-damned stupid ones I ever heard.

**Q: Are you still involved in mercenary recruitment?**

**A:** What a question. You know it's illegal in the United States? We don't recruit mercenaries. We recruit "security personnel."

**Q: Are you still recruiting "security personnel?"**

**A:** Under certain conditions.

**Q: What conditions?**

**A:** I can't get into that.

**Q: Is it true that you once bombed Vietnam with live rats infected with the bubonic plague?**

**A:** (Laughter) Yeah.

**Q: Was that bombing sanctioned by the U.S. Government?**

**A:** No.

**Q: It was all on your own?**

**A:** It was special operations.

**Q: For whom?**

**A:** (Laughter) The group that I worked with.

**Q: And who is, or was, that?**

**A:** That's unimportant.

**Q: Are you a religious man?**

**A:** I don't believe in organized religion. I'm religious in the sense that I committed myself to Jesus a long time ago. I don't make a big stink about it. And the Pope, incidentally, sent me a blessed cross when he was here in the States. And the Pope himself sent word that they were including me on the mass for the sick every week, which is very flattering. The way it happened is, his major Bishop assistant was the nuncio in the Dominican Republic when I was leading the Loyalists in the revolt. I'm rather proud of that.

**Q: The Pope realizes you're sick?**

**A:** Yeah, I've got cancer. We think we've got a piece of it under remission, but I don't know. There is no real way to find out except surgery and I've got a legal document which prevents any of 'em from doing tricks while I'm in surgery.

**Q: Tricks?**

**A:** No life support, and no bags hanging or anything like that. It's not my lifestyle.

**Q: Is it true that you're taking Laetrile, the controversial drug derived from apricot pits which is banned by the FDA?**

**A:** Yep. I'm convinced that Laetrile had a major affect in pulling me through the first bout. When I came back from five weeks at the clinic in Alabama, one of my conventional doctors said, "I don't know what the hell you're doing, but keep it up 'cause it seems to be working." But I couldn't take all the damn vitamin pills. I was taking 50 pills with every meal. (*Editor's note: Mr. WerBell's cancer is now in complete remission.*)

**Q: Are you presently involved in any private military activity?**

**A:** Well, yes, of course. Various operations.

**Q: In what part of the world?**

**A:** Mideast.

**Q: Are you working for the U.S. Government of a foreign government?**

**A:** No. I just can't say. Middle East and Far East.

**Q: You're running two operations?**

**A:** I'm very closely tied into Thailand.

**Q: O.K. let me phrase my question this way: Do you have any predictions for what the future has in store for the Far East?**

**A:** Well, you know, there's a great deal of talk about another coup in Thailand. However, it's not in the best interests of the United States to permit this to happen. Because it would definitely be a communist infiltration.

**Q: What would you most like to be remembered for?**

**A:** I don't give a damn about being remembered. But if I've got to be remembered for something, I'd like to be remembered for being a good military officer and a patriot. ★